

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Allowable Subject Matter

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Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 1-2 and 4-15. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claim 17 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the features of the base and intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 17 has been rewritten into independent form and is therefore now in condition for allowance.

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Claims 1-20 are now pending. Claims 3 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to re-file them in a continuation application. Claim 17-20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks.

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Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figure 3 as failing to comply with 37CFR 1.84(p) (4) as reference characters 1, 2,3,4,6 have been used to designate both elements in digital pot 208 and NVRAM 205. A corrected drawing sheet having separate reference characters for elements in digital pot 208 and NVRAM 205, in compliance with 37CFR 1.121(d) is submitted. A copy of marked up drawings indicating the changes is also enclosed.

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Specification

The specification is amended to incorporate reference characters for pins 1-6 of NVRAM 205 and digital pot 205 due to the drawing changes. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as invention. Applicants has canceled claim 3.

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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 16, 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(A) as being unpatentable over Estakhri et al (US 5818781) while claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as
10 being unpatentable over Estakhri et al and Cook et al (US 5859527).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 has been deleted. Claims 18-20 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 17.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1, 2, 4-15 and 17-20 are allowable,
15 and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949)-955-1920.

Respectfully submitted,

20 Dated: 12/29/06

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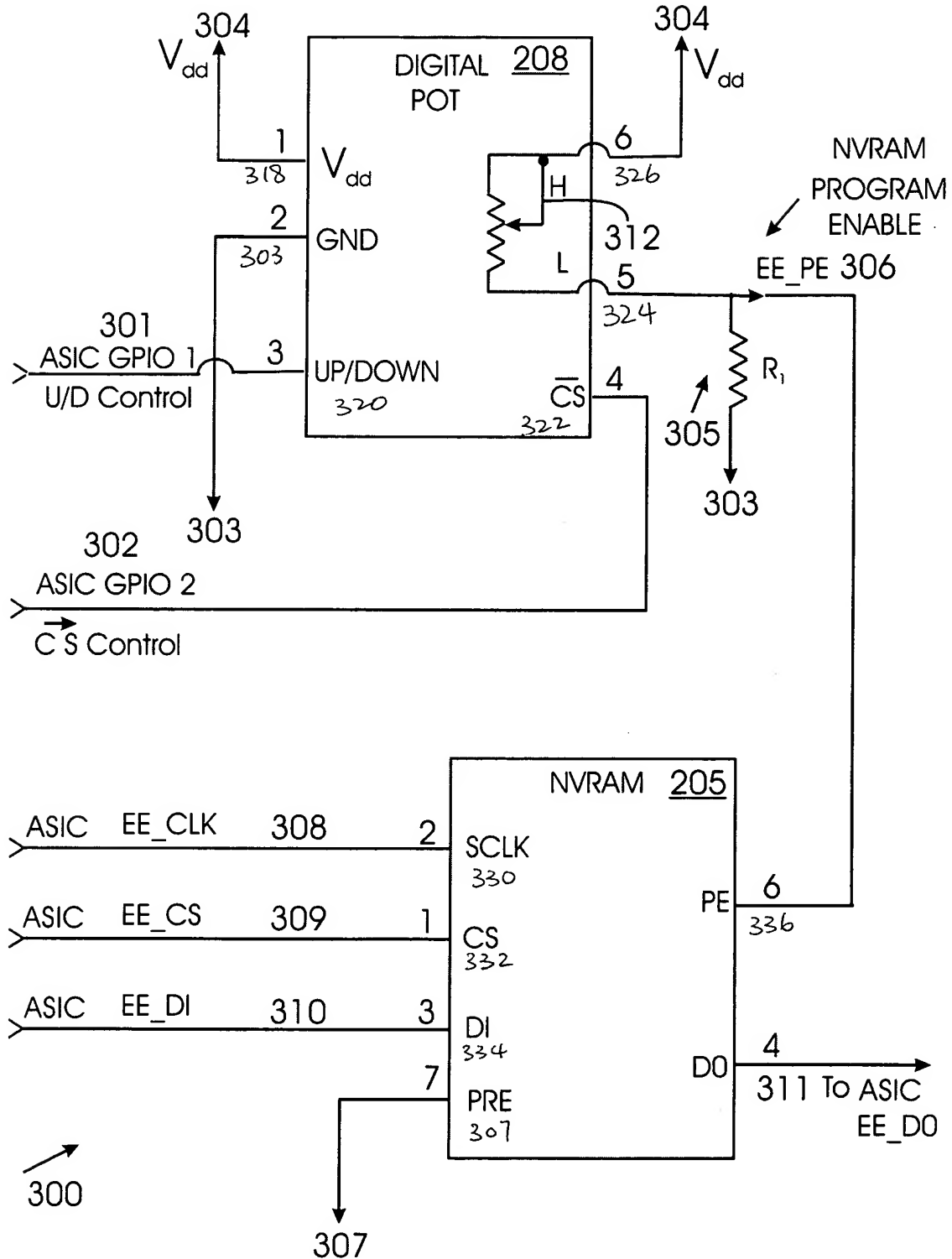


FIGURE 3